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3 August 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Intelligence Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Intelligence on International Communism (U)

1. The Department of the Army is concerned by the serious inadequacy of available information on international communism and by certain weaknesses in the intelligence community's handling of this subject. Two major weaknesses are considered to be (a) the lack of an adequate program for the production of basic intelligence on international communism and (b) insufficient coordination of the total collection and production effort of United States intelligence agencies in this field. An example of such deficiency and a discussion of two measures necessary to the improvement of the handling of intelligence on international communism are attached as Inclosure 1.

2. Reference is made to IAC-D-82/6 of 5 October 1954, Report to the IAC on Implementation of the Survey of USIA's Intelligence needs and Assets. That document (page 3) states that "the question of the location of responsibility for expanded production on international communism is currently under discussion between CIA and the Department of State."

3. In view of the above, the Department of the Army recommends that

a. the IAC request that the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the discussion between CIA and the Department of State be reported at an ~~early~~ date;

b. the IAC review the overall program for the collection and production of intelligence on international communism in order to strengthen the total effort in this field; and

c. in the course of the recommended review the IAC consider:

(1) the assignment of a single agency of responsibility for maintaining and collating ^{for} the entire intelligence community the basic data in the field of international communism.

*ARMY and State Department review(s) completed

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(2) the activation of an IAC sub-committee to help coordinate the effort of the agencies in collecting and producing intelligence on international communism.

ROBERT A. SCHOW
Major General GS
Deputy G-2 (Foreign Operations)

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DISCUSSION

1. In illustration of existing inadequacies in the IAC agencies' intelligence on international communism, the Department of the Army is handicapped by too little information on the covert aspects of communist subversive activities, with particular reference to communist capabilities for sabotage and armed action that will interfere with the operations of our armed forces overseas or those of our allies. An improved program of basic intelligence production is an essential step toward overcoming some of this deficiency. Of equal importance, however, is an increased collection effort, based on closer and more extensive cooperation between the collecting and producing offices.

2. Virtually all IAC agencies need basic data on international communism that will enable them, for example, to assess local communist activity or influence as a measure of regional or national communist capabilities. Detailed information of this nature may be exploited in different ways to meet different agencies' specific requirements, e.g., a careful tabulation of local political and shop steward elections in Italy would help to gauge more accurately not only the trend of communist political strength in that country but the communist potential for armed action as well. No agency, however, has now the resources to perform this close analysis on a continuing basis. Supplementing the published NIS, therefore, the office recommended in paragraph 3c(1) of the basic memorandum would be responsible for maintaining files and preparing basic intelligence reports on specific aspects of Communist overt political or covert subversive activity, both as part of a planned, coordinated program and in response to an urgent request from any IAC agency.

3. An IAC directive of 26 May 1949 established the JIGSAW committee as a permanent inter-departmental committee "to plan and coordinate production of intelligence in the field of international communism, as it affects the national security." In the year that it met regularly, the committee did useful groundwork. Coordinated planning for the production of intelligence on international communism is a continuing need. It is also obvious, however, that the covert nature of communist subversive activity requires greater coordination of intelligence production and clandestine operations in this field to improve (1) support to the clandestine collection effort and (2) accuracy of the intelligence produced, including national estimates. The composition of the inter-agency committee recommended in paragraph 3c(2) of the basic memorandum should reflect these needs.

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